

Title: Speaker made observation regarding regulation of raising matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour ('Zero Hour').

12.18 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Members, as you are aware, the matter relating to regulation of, what is called, 'Zero Hour' has been engaging our attention for quite some time. Yesterday, I had convened a meeting of the hon. Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha to discuss this matter. After deliberations on the issue, it was agreed that the matters of only urgent national and international importance, to be decided by the Speaker, should be allowed to be raised. To enable raising of matters in an orderly manner, it was suggested that such Members who were to be permitted by the Chair will be duly informed before 12 Noon. To facilitate scrutiny of the matters, the notices should be received up to 0930 hours instead of 1000 hours.

It was further agreed that the number of matters to be raised under Rule 377 be increased from 15 to 20 per day to enable more Members to raise their issues.

In pursuance of this decision, it is proposed that with effect from 25 of April, 2005:

The notices for raising matters of urgent public importance after Question Hour will be given by 0930 hours on the day on which the matter is proposed to be raised instead of 1000 hours as at present;

Notices will be scrutinised with reference to the national and international importance of the matter and Members who are to be permitted to raise their issues will be duly intimated before the commencement of the so-called 'Zero Hour';

After the aforesaid names are exhausted, time permitting, other Members may be permitted to raise their issues in the order to be decided by the Speaker; and

The number of matters under Rule 377 be raised from 15 per day, as at present, to 20 per day.

Kind cooperation of the hon. Members is solicited.
